

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Cromwell et al.

Serial No. 09/430,045

Filed: 10/29/1999

For: **METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PROVIDING ACCESS TO STORED AUDIO DATA OVER A NETWORK**

Examiner: Nguyen, Dustin

Art Unit: 2157

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED 20 NOVEMBER 2002

In response to the office action mailed 20 November 2002, Applicant submits the following remarks. If any fees are required in association with this response, the Director is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account 50-1732, and consider this a petition therefor.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 33-35 and 49-51, without prejudice.

REMARKS

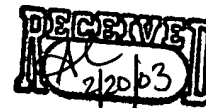
Applicant has studied the Office Action of 20 November 2002 and offers the following remarks in response thereto. Before addressing the merits of the rejection, Applicant provides a summary of the present invention. With this summary to provide context for the rest of the remarks, Applicant addresses the merits of the Office Action.

The present invention is directed to playing strings of discrete audio segments to users of a telephone network. Specifically, the users may be using an IP telephony network. The processor receives a request for playing a sequence of discrete audio segments. For example, a sequence of discrete audio segments could be 1) "The time is," 2) "2:02 PM" and 3) "Thank you for using AT&T." Each element is its own audio segment. The processor has to locate these discrete audio segments in a database. This is done by using a unique audio identifier that corresponds to each audio segment. The request for a sequence will include each audio identifier needed. Once the segments have been located, the segments will be played to the telephony

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|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| TO: | Examiner Dustin Nguyen | FROM: | Benjamin S. Withrow |
| COMPANY: | PTO - Art Unit 2157 | DATE: | 2/20/2003 |
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☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Attached please find the following documents related to the above-referenced application:

- 1) Response to the Office Action mailed 20 November 2002 (10 pages)

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